

**To:** Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Ruhl, Christopher[Ruhl.Christopher@epa.gov]; Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]  
**From:** Gray, David  
**Sent:** Wed 9/9/2015 12:19:11 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent reporter fact check

You can find information about flow rates in one of the attachments to our internal review - which has a nice historical summary too. Based upon 2009-2014 flow data, the average annual discharge from the Gold King Mine and three nearby mines (Mogul, Red and Bonita, and American Tunnel) reached approximately 330 million gallons per year.

USGS measured increased flows at a streamgage starting at about 12:30 p.m. and ending about 7:15 p.m. This resulted in a provisional calculated flow volume of 3,043,067 gallons discharged from the Gold King Mine. The EPA's original estimate of 1 million gallons discharged from the Gold King Mine was based on an estimate of the size of the adit. A streamgage is an instrument that measures volume by measuring flow, which is much more precise.

**From:** Grantham, Nancy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 08, 2015 6:17 PM  
**To:** Ruhl, Christopher; Ostrander, David; Gray, David  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent reporter fact check

**From:** Allen, Laura  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 08, 2015 8:15 PM  
**To:** Press; Grantham, Nancy; Gray, David; StClair, Christie; EOC Public Information; [stclairsails@gmail.com](mailto:stclairsails@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent reporter fact check

Anyone know if this is accurate? See below.

the same amount of contaminated water that spilled on Aug 5 flows out of the mine every

four days.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Rachel Estabrook <[restabrook@cprmail.org](mailto:restabrook@cprmail.org)>  
**Date:** September 8, 2015 at 7:16:56 PM EDT  
**To:** <[allen.laura@epa.gov](mailto:allen.laura@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent reporter fact check

Hi Laura,

Can you help me with this, please? Really appreciate it.

Rachel

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rachel Estabrook** <[restabrook@cprmail.org](mailto:restabrook@cprmail.org)>  
Date: Tue, Sep 8, 2015 at 5:15 PM  
Subject: Urgent reporter fact check  
To: [Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)  
Cc: Ryan Warner <[rwarner@cprmail.org](mailto:rwarner@cprmail.org)>

Hi Melissa,

I'm a producer at Colorado Public Radio, the NPR affiliate in Denver. I have an urgent fact check about the Gold King spill based on an interview today with Governor John Hickenlooper. The [Colorado Statesman newspaper](#) quotes your office saying that the same amount of contaminated water that spilled on Aug 5 flows out of the mine every four days. Is that correct information?

I really appreciate it.

Rachel

SEP 08

Rachel Estabrook  
Reporter/producer, *Colorado Matters*  
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